

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1935

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first official Big Brothers organization was founded in 1904 in New York City by Ernest Coulter, a clerk of the Juvenile Court; and

WHEREAS, Coulter appealed to local civic and business leaders to take on the role of "Big Brother" to the thousands of suffering children who repeatedly came through the court system, and as a result, forty men stepped forward answering the request of Mr. Coulter; and

WHEREAS, meanwhile across town, a group of women also began a similar program befriending girls who came before the children's court, thus creating the movement now known as Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; and

WHEREAS, Big Brothers Big Sisters matches caring adults with children in one-to-one relationships with friendship as its cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, the organization works closely with parents to match every child with the appropriate Big Brother or Big Sister; and

WHEREAS, youth who participate in this organization are 52% less likely to skip a day of school and 46% less likely to start using drugs than peers who are not in the program; and

WHEREAS, youth involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters show improved school performance and attendance, better grades and greater self confidence; and

WHEREAS, today Big Brothers Big Sisters serves more than 200,000 youths in 5,000 communities in all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization is commemorating their 100th anniversary:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-Second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, hereby acknowledge the tremendous efforts and success of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization and declare September 15, 2004 as "Big Brothers Big Sisters Day" in Missouri.